AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. – 47. (Canceled)

48. (New) A method of transmission of application data in a plurality of services in a digital transport stream, each of said plurality of services carrying at least one application, comprising:

providing an application data table containing information regarding said at least one application carried by each of a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

49. (New) The method as claimed in claim 48, wherein the application data table is transported in a transport packet having predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

50. (New) The method as claimed in claim 48, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

51. (New) The method as claimed in claim 48, wherein each of the plurality of services further comprises a program map table giving access to applications carried by this service, the program map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

52. (New) The method as claimed in claim 48, further comprising:

providing a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

53. (New) The method as claimed in claim 52, wherein each application data table is transported in one of a table and a section within a transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

54. (New) The method as claimed in claim 48, further comprising:

receiving the application data table in a digital television system.

55. (New) The method as claimed in claim 48, wherein the digital transport stream conforms to the MPEG standard.

56. (New) A transmission apparatus comprising:

means for transmitting a transport stream comprising a plurality of services, wherein each of the plurality of services carries at least one application, together with an application data table,

wherein the application data table comprises information regarding said at least one application carried by each of a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

57. (New) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit the application data table in a transport packet having a predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

58. (New) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, comprising means for electronically signing said application data table so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

59. (New) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit, for each service, a program map table giving access to applications carried by that service, the program map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

60. (New) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

61. (New) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit each application data table and a section within a transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

62. (New) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the digital transport stream conforms to the MPEG standard.

63. (New) A decoder comprising:

a memory for storing an application data table comprising information regarding applications carried by a plurality of services within the transport stream, wherein each of the plurality of services carries at least one application

means for controlling, when changing between the plurality of services, the downloading, deleting, and maintenance of such applications in dependence on the information contained within the application data table.

64. (New) The decoder as claimed in claim 63, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit the decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.